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Taste of Iceland comes to Minneapolis May 2-5 for a weekend jam-packed with all things Icelandic! Iceland Naturally's famous cultural festival features several mostly free events throughout the city that highlight the best of Iceland's unique culture, music, design, film and more.

CUISINE

ICELANDIC MENU AT RED STAG SUPPERCLUB | DINNER | COCKTAILS | MAY 2-5

Icelandic cuisine from Chef Viktor Örn Andrússon of Iceland and Chef Joseph Holmes of Red Stag Supperclub, and custom cocktails from Icelandic Mixologist Tóta.

LITERATURE

ON TIME AND WATER: A CALL TO A NEW SCIENTIFIC REVOLUTION | MAY 3 | 4-6PM

At Water Bar & Public Studio, Author Andri Snær Magnason will discuss how he weaves a web of stories from mythology, to his grandmother's honeymoon on Europe's largest glacier, to our understanding of our intimate time.

MUSIC

REYKJAVIK CALLING AT FINE LINE | MAY 3 | DOORS AT 8PM, SHOW AT 9PM

Icelandic acts Mammút and Kælan Mikla join American band, The Bad Man onstage for a live performance at Fine Line.

FILM

SHORTFISH AT THE TRYLON CINEMA | MAY 4 | 2:30-4:30PM

A screening of Iceland's premier short film festival by Stockfish.

COCKTAILS

TASTE OF ICELAND COCKTAIL CLASS AT ROOFTOP AT THE HEWING HOTEL | MAY 2 | 5-7PM

Shake, stir, and sip Icelandic cocktails made with Reyka Vodka and Brennivín through a demonstration and hands-on tutorial by renowned Icelandic mixologist Tóta.

LITERATURE

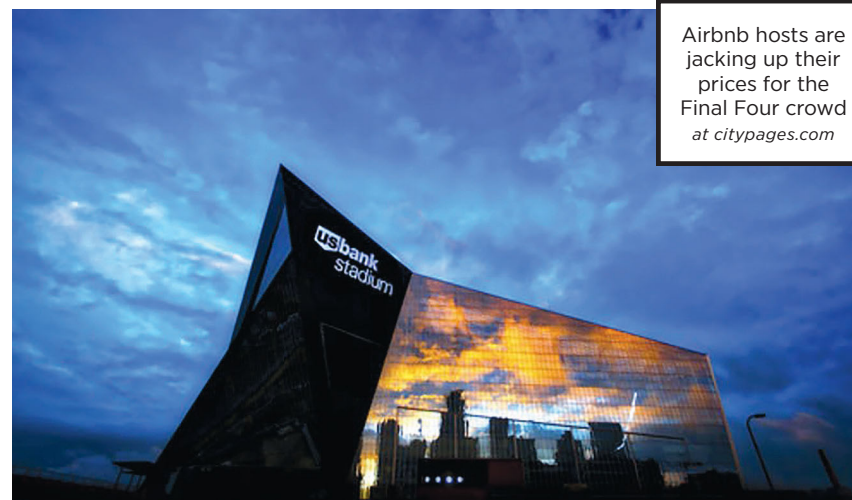
ICELAND'S THRIVING LITERARY SCENE WITH AUTHOR ANDRI SNÆR MAGNASON WITH RAIN TAXI AT OPEN BOOK | MAY 5 | 3-5PM

Author Andri Snær Magnason will discuss his wide ranging work that includes supermarket poetry, science fiction, and critical writings about current issues in Iceland.

ICELAND NATURALLY

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THE SHORTLIST



BRIAN PETERSON, STAR TRIBUNE

Airbnb hosts are jacking up their prices for the Final Four crowd at citypages.com

THE STAT SHEET:

\$1.3 million

Total security costs for the Final Four

8%

Decline in Minnesota's farm income last year

\$18 million

Special Olympics funding the Trump administration tried to cut

\$64 million

What Trump has spent thus far on Mar-a-Lago golf vacations

“Would PBR and Chevy pickups be involved in this incident?”

Reader Barrie Fires responds to “As soccer season nears, a donut spree ruins Hastings’ fields,” at citypages.com.

STATE OF CHILL

TAKE A BOW, MINNESOTA. Despite these times of anxiety and despair, you’ve managed to become America’s least stressed state.

So says Wallet Hub, which examined everything from health to divorce to poverty to the per capita number of psychologists in each state. Minnesota finished high throughout, doing especially well in its low ratio of people in poor health and the highest median credit score in the country.

Our only real lapse involved anxiety over job security, where we finished 26th. Then again, feeling you’re one small step from being crushed by The Man is simply the new normal.

POPULAR STORIES

AT CITYPAGES.COM

Two Minnesota **VETS REFUSE TO TREAT AN ANIMAL** from a no-kill farm sanctuary

Minneapolis **BILLBOARD MOCKING KRIS LINDAHL** gets assist from... Kris Lindahl

‘Rehab Addict’ **NICOLE CURTIS RANTS AGAINST MINNEAPOLIS** over demolished home

Minnesota **COUNTY COMMISSIONER** not particularly concerned if drug addicts die

University of **MINNESOTA STAFFER GETS ARRESTED** for trying to hire a sex worker

THE BLOCKADE

Why overwhelmingly popular bills can't get a hearing in the Minnesota Senate

Depending upon the poll, between 80 and 90 percent of Minnesotans favor criminal background checks on all gun purchases. And those figures include gun owners.

So you might have thought state Sen. Ron Latz (D-St. Louis Park) would have no trouble passing his background check bill. But for the past year and a half, with Republicans in control of the Senate, he couldn't even get a hearing.

The excuses varied. Sometimes he was told the schedule was full, or a committee chair said the decision was over his head. "I find it impossible to believe they couldn't find an hour and a half or two hours to discuss it," he says.

When Latz says "they," he doesn't necessarily mean "Republicans." Some Democrats oppose tougher gun con-

trol laws too. But Republicans' majority means they control the committees, and Majority Leader Paul Gazelka (R-Nisswa) has already promised Latz's bill will go absolutely nowhere.

Which means Latz is sitting on a bill that an overwhelming majority of Minnesotans want, but may never be heard. So he'll have to settle for the next best thing. Sen. Matt Little (D-Lakeville) included the bill in a special hearing this week of the newly christened Senate Committee on Banned Bills.

It's for all of Minnesota's favorite hopeless causes: gun control, paid family leave, and a constitutional amendment for gender equality. These are issues with widespread appeal, says Little, but small hope of seeing a vote in the Senate.

Sen. Patricia Torres Ray (D-Minneapolis) believes Republicans want to

use these popular bills as bargaining chips for some of the less popular bills its hardcore base wants—rolling them all up in a monster bill "400 pages long" and asking senators to accept or reject them wholesale.

Her bill on recruiting more teachers of color is on the Banned Bills Committee's docket. "These particular issues should not be used as political pawns to negotiate," she says. "It's fundamentally wrong."

Of course, not all the going theories involve complicated political maneuvers.

"The people in the majority know they're on the wrong side of these issues and don't want to vote against them," Little says. That, or they simply don't



MINNESOTA SENATE

Sen. Matt Little says Republicans are "rigging our democracy."

want Democrats getting too many wins.

Either way, he says, it's "rigging our democracy." —HANNAH JONES

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The Final Four

won't make Minneapolis rich

But maybe it can make us happy. —BY SUSAN DU

HERE COMES ANOTHER megasports event, and with it, another mess of road closures in downtown Minneapolis.

The inconvenience for locals, not to mention the arrival of nearly a hundred thousand sports-loving alumni of various schools, is all done in the name of corporate welfare premised on the attempt to pump the local economy with riches.

Last fall, the Minneapolis City Council approved spending \$900,000 to cover part of the cost of hosting the Final Four. The city's tab pays for cops, sanitation, and party space at the Minneapolis Convention

Center. Minneapolis hopes to make it all back and then some through a windfall of tourism taxes and fees, and, like the 2018 Super Bowl, justifies public investment as an opportunity to showcase the Twin Cities on a national stage.

It makes perfect economic sense, according to a study by Rockport Analytics, which estimates the NCAA men's basketball championship will bring 94,000 visitors spending \$142 million. Rockport is the same firm that calculated the Minneapolis Super Bowl would generate \$343 million for the metro.

Please reach for a grain of salt: Both studies were commissioned by the local organizing committees promoting the events—and conducted before anything even took place.

Minneapolis should be skeptical of Rockport's rosy analysis, says Victor Matheson, a Ph.D. grad from the University of Minnesota who's now president of the North American Association of Sports Economists.

After the streets are swept and the ballers and executives have moved on, independent economists reviewing the data usually find

far more sobering numbers. Super Bowl studies show that the biggest sporting event in the United States usually generates anywhere from \$30 million to \$130 million—in some cases not even enough to cover the costs of hosting.

"The rule of thumb we use is just take the decimal point [of official projections] and move it one place to the left, and that's probably a pretty good guess of what you're actually going to get," Matheson says. "It's easy to get an event to look pretty good if you only include the benefits and not the expenses."

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Most of the time, it's impossible to get the full picture of what an event costs the public because the demands made of host cities are confidential. But in the case of Minneapolis' Super Bowl, the Star Tribune got someone to leak the bid book. Its contents were revealing: The NFL requires free police escorts, free parking, free luxury hotel suites, free billboards, plus all revenue from ticket sales. The phrase "at no cost to the NFL" was repeated ad nauseum.

Likewise, Norway had to stop bidding for the 2022 Winter Olympics after it came out that the International Olympic Committee demanded to have a fairytale cocktail reception with the king—all expenses paid by the locals—among other mandates.

The more powerful the league, the greater the demands.

"And of course, the NCAA also puts big demands on cities in order for them to get the Final Four," Matheson says.

The metro will make a lot of money, though most of it will pour out again, according to economists. All the hotels will fill up and room rates will skyrocket, but a one-off boon for Radisson corporate headquarters won't mean more jobs (or higher wages) for desk clerks and room cleaners.

There are also opportunity costs. Public resources spent on events could otherwise go to health care, education, and other measures of human wellbeing at the neighborhood level.

Civic boosters argue that big events put Minneapolis on the map. Research shows that surges of tourism don't last long into the future. If someone comes to the Twin Cities for the local flavor—the arts, food, and outdoors—and they have a great time, they'll tell their friends and family it's worth a trip. But if a tourist simply goes home with memories of how great (or heartbreaking) the Final Four was, their friends and family might just want to book tickets to the next host city.

"From an economic standpoint, you want to support things that generate revenue year-round, rather than these big floods," Matheson says. "If you're a farmer, you want a little bit of rain on a regular basis rather than one gigantic flood one weekend and drought the rest of the year. Those same principles apply."

For example, the Minneapolis Convention Center hosts a different event almost every day, things like boat shows, wedding fairs, and industry gatherings of out-of-towners who spend money in bars and shops on Nicollet Mall. That tourism business makes sound sense, because it's constant.

Minneapolis will make money on the Final Four regardless, says the University of Michigan's Mark Rosentraub. The cashflow probably won't be as great as the host committee claims, but will be a nice net positive at a time of year when

Minneapolis wouldn't naturally attract a ton of people.

But factor in construction of U.S. Bank Stadium, and this justification dissipates.

To bring both the Super Bowl and the Final Four to Minnesota, the new football arena had to be built. The NCAA always insists on having its championship games in football stadiums these days—despite player complaints about them having the wrong scale, and ruining shooters' depth perception—because they can sell more tickets, even if they're nosebleed seats.

There are bigger stadiums than U.S. Bank, but few newer, and even fewer with a worse public financing scheme: Minnesota's elected officials built a \$1 billion stadium with \$500 million of public money.

"It was a surprising deal," Rosentraub says, laughing. "You're not going to make [the public investment] back in operations." Ever.

Instead, economists can point to intangibles, things like civic pride. U.S. Bank Stadium is an incredible piece of architecture, Rosentraub says. Though locals' view of its soaring skyline disruption may be clouded by knowledge of the price tag, it's an objectively bold design in a town not known for its downtown sights.

There's also research, believe it or not, showing big sporting events make people happy.

Looking to make money off games gets the premise all wrong. Despite what boosters say, these parties don't drive tourism, increase employment, or promote regional economic growth. Rather, the real reason we embrace them is that we respond to festive impulses, and choose to prioritize play.

A 2008 research paper by a team of U.S. and U.K. researchers collected data on self-reported satisfaction for 12 European countries that hosted the Olympics, the FIFA World Cup, and UEFA European Championship. Result: the "feel-good" factor associated with hosting is significant, comparable to attending a wedding. Your own.

They added an obvious caveat: "Although we find the magnitude of hosting football events in comparison to a person being married, say, is large, the former effect seems very short-lived, while the latter effect is generally much longer lasting."

In any case, so long as U.S. Bank Stadium is already there, Minneapolis might as well host as many things as it can, while holding elected officials accountable for signing away public money and resources to meet organizers' ransom note demands.

And since much of the net gains Minneapolitans receive will come in the form of joy, fleeting and pure, we should consider it our civic duty to lean hard into the hype. Get down there. Toast to some tourists, and try telling them about all the great things Minnesota has to offer year-round. 



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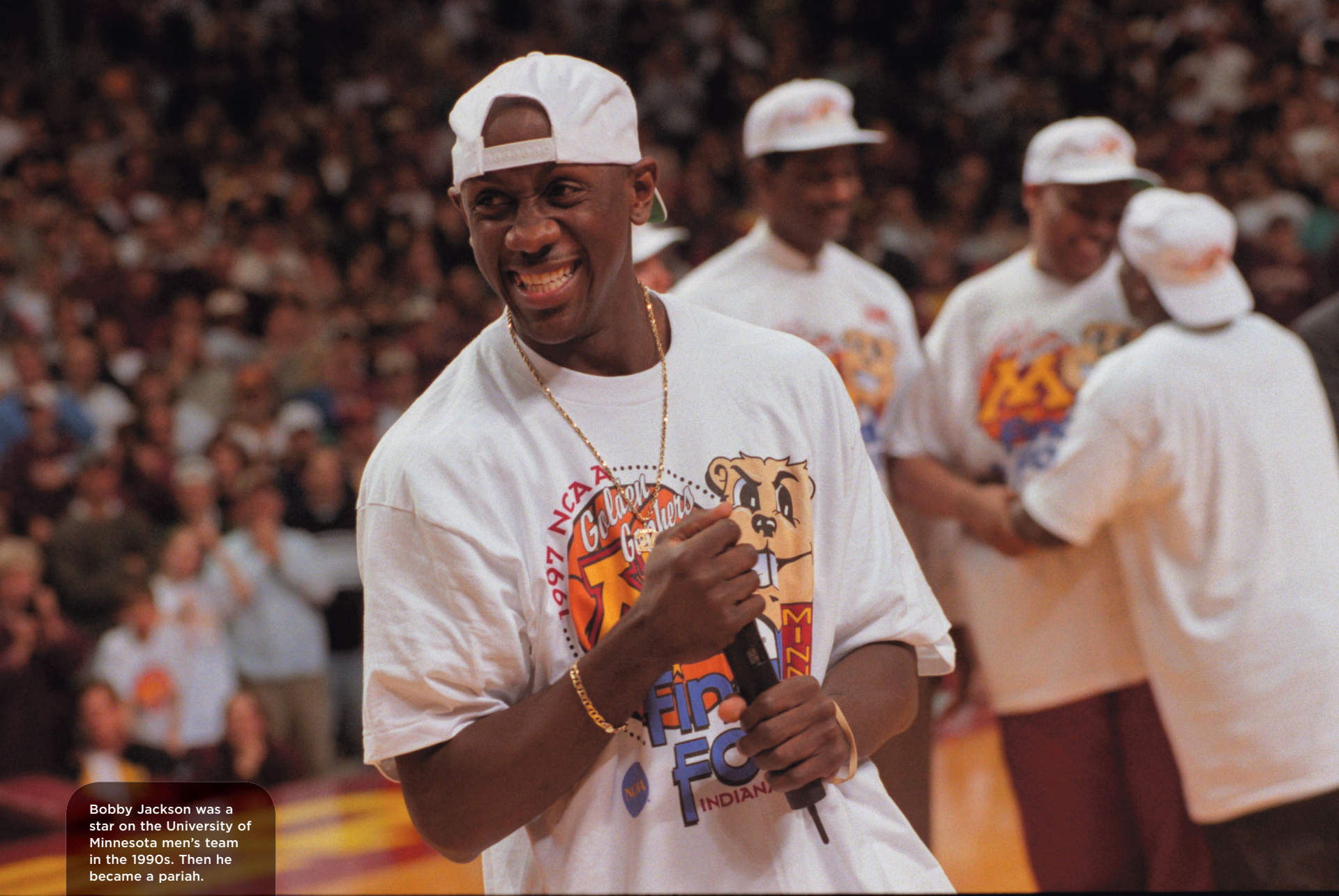


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Bobby Jackson was a star on the University of Minnesota men's team in the 1990s. Then he became a pariah.

Jumping Through Hoops

Minnesota's 1997 Final Four run was a scandal. So is college basketball. —BY MIKE MULLEN

BOBBY JACKSON LEFT the University of Minnesota in 1997, and has almost never been out of work since. After 12 years in the NBA, including some great ones with a fun Sacramento Kings team, Jackson moved into coaching, briefly working for the Minnesota Timberwolves before getting back to Sacramento.

That Jackson did all this without obtaining a college degree surprises no one. Basketball was always his focus. He excelled at the game, and seems to have enjoyed playing and now coaching as much or more than anyone. That's obvious to anyone who recalls the big grin that often stole Bobby's face when he or anyone made a good play.

Bobby wasn't just good at basketball. He was in love with it.

Jackson thinks of the U's run to the 1997 Final Four, the school's one and only trip, as a high point in his life, "something you'll never forget," as he told WCCO a couple years ago. This is a little ironic, since the NCAA and the University of Minnesota have tried to forget it: The collegiate association vacated those games, and the school has literally hidden (or lost track of) the Big Ten Tournament trophy that team won.

Jackson, an undersized point guard who played like a just-lit stick of dynamite, was a central if somewhat passive figure in one of the biggest academic scandals in the

history of college sports. Players on that team, coached by Clem Haskins, routinely skipped classes and assignments and/or had papers written for them by a woman ostensibly hired to help them make grades. She did, but only by bending and breaking any rule possible to keep athletes eligible for as long as was needed.

This all came to light a couple years later in an explosive, Pulitzer Prize-winning series in the Pioneer Press. Jackson, then an NBA player, declined to comment about cheating his way to years as a beloved court jester and game-winner. He was depicted as a classically entitled jock, used to everything going his way and never going to class.

One academic counselor said Bobby was the ultimate example of a player staying eligible but "never really getting close to a degree," describing the whole story as "sad."

We bet Jackson wasn't sad. Few twentysomethings with a high-six-figure salary are. And he certainly wasn't crying tears (of sadness, anyway) when he later made upward of \$30 million in a decade-plus pro career. Bobby's case is a rare one. You have to be both great and lucky to have that kind of career. But stories of college athletes getting favors—academic, financial, or otherwise—are a dime a dozen. The difference here: Clem Haskins' corrupt Gophers got caught.

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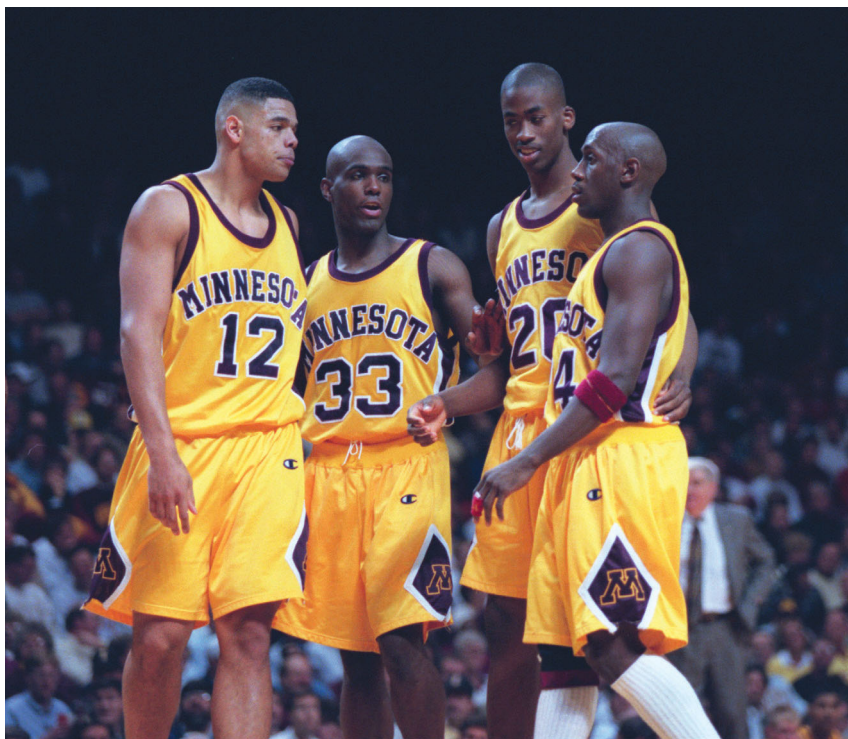
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JEFF WHEELER

For this, Clem's still banned from coaching college games, Minnesota spent years on probation, and Bobby Jackson's Big Ten Player of the Year award and Final Four run were wiped from the books. Jackson was the clear standout, but at least five players went on to pro or semi-pro careers, regardless of their darkened past.

And here's what wasn't rescinded: the tens of millions of dollars those teams generated for the U. Jackson and his teammates, of course, weren't allowed to receive a dime for working hard to perform in public, at times on national television, all for the purpose of raising the profile and prestige of the school.

More than two decades later, that legendarily crooked Gophers program looks adorably minor, more farce than tragedy. Since that "scandal," several colleges have been rocked by villainous acts that put team success shelves higher than "student"-athlete behavior or public safety. If you're not familiar, Google the weak rape investigation on Florida State's Jameis Winston; let's assume everyone recalls the horrifying, decades-long cover-up of a child molester's deeds at Penn State. Hell, Baylor University had two. One was the recent web of cover-ups of football players accused of rape. Another was the mid-2000s episode where one basketball player shot and killed another, and then-coach Dave Bliss instructed teammates to frame the victim as a drug dealer.

Put those dark tales of rape and murder alongside Clem Haskins sneaking players through the academic system, and you'll begin to wonder what the big deal was.

Or if college sports should even exist.

In Europe, South America, and pretty much everywhere else, great athletes are plucked early, recruited to sponsored club

The length and breadth of the Gophers' academic scandal effectively led to coach Clem Haskins receiving a lifetime ban.

teams, and, eventually, signed to pro team youth systems. There, they focus on their chosen profession. In America, we do the same with sports like tennis, gymnastics, golf, skateboarding, racing (of all kinds), and, to a lesser extent, hockey and baseball.

Football and basketball, you get no choice. No going straight to the money-making side. First you have to be some school's cash cow. The system is enforced in the name of athlete safety and preparedness, and "concern" for the young man's education. Horseshit. If those sports didn't fill stadiums and sell TV contracts, those kids would be free to dance on someone else's dime without any professors involved.

Trading of bodies aside, the slavery metaphor doesn't hold together when discussing highly paid athletes who belong to players unions. But college kids? Who make no money, are expected to balance elite sports and school assignments, and whose attempts at unionizing were recently spurned? Sure looks like chattel from here.

America's scandalized by coaches and boosters bribing underprivileged athletes, who then spend years running from those events' long shadow. We should be much more upset by recent revelations that rich kids' parents bribed their utterly untalented offspring into top-flight schools as part of a nationwide racket. As actress Lori Loughlin turned herself in on a federal indictment for bribing her unimpressive daughter into USC, said daughter was spending the night on a yacht. A yacht owned by Rick Caruso, a billionaire California real estate mogul, and a member of the USC board of trustees.

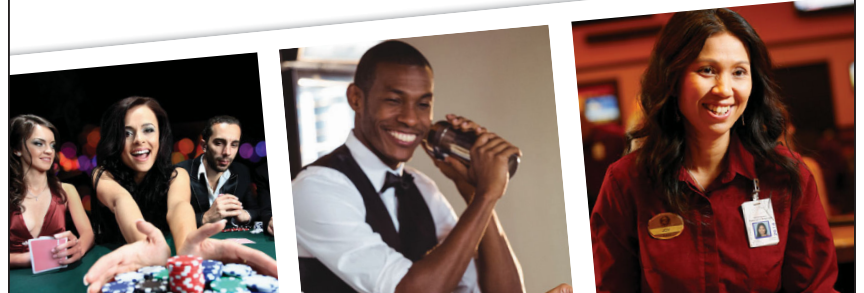
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4/18 BIG FAT LOVE: Celebrating John Prine 1/2 BDay
4/18 HOOK & LAUGHTER: Mary Mack, Ahmed Khalaf
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4/19 DRUG BUDGET Final Show, Catbath & Small White
4/19 THE NIGHT BEFORE 20 - Potluck String Band +

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Bobby Jackson grew up in East Spencer, a small, predominantly black North Carolina community founded by ex-slaves. Some residents still remember stories of the “hanging tree” in nearby Salisbury, where Jackson attended high school. Poverty is chronic and endemic in East Spencer, and these days, abandoned houses abound. Sounds like a tough place to grow up. If a billionaire comforted young Bobby in his hour of judgment by letting him spend the night on a yacht, that story didn’t make the Pioneer Press.

Clem Haskins and his players reunited in Minneapolis a couple years ago to mark the 20th anniversary of the most accomplished and controversial University of Minnesota team of all time. Haskins, now in his late 70s, lives on a farm in Kentucky, and told the Star Tribune seeing all his old players together “really tugs at my heart.”

Haskins visited a Gophers practice at the invitation of coach Richard Pitino, who’s got his own reasons for seeing an academic scandal as no big deal: His father, Rick Pitino, oversaw a program at Louisville that was found to be providing escort services to recruits. The elder Pitino was never proven to have direct knowledge, but was faulted for failure to prevent a prostitutes-for-prospects scheme.

Louisville’s 2012 national championship was later “vacated,” just like the victories of Bobby Jackson and the Gophers, and if you don’t see some level of unfairness in those two violations getting the exact same treatment—not to mention the wins Joe Paterno racked up at Penn State—you should check the NCAA website to see if they’re hiring.

If some large person lands on one of Virginia guard De’Andre Hunter’s fast-moving ankles before he plays a minute of NBA basketball—and receives the payday his talent merits—the basketball gods will never forgive us. (Someone please knock on the wood under the free throw line.) If a coach in this year’s Final Four is later discovered to have paid a player under the table or hired his unqualified father, go ahead, throw the book at him/them. But maybe read the book before you throw, and decide if its absurd chapters even make sense anymore.

When Pioneer Press reporter George Dohrman called Clem Haskins a couple days before the first round of the 1999 NCAA Tournament began, an exasperated (and guilty) Haskins dodged questions about his many errors in judgment. Those included signing his name to a check for \$3,000 to the woman who’d written papers for his players. Eventually Clem told the reporter he was “just trying to win a game,” speaking of the first round. Minnesota immediately suspended players, lost, and Haskins hasn’t coached since.

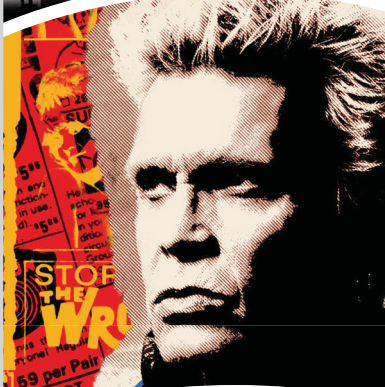
Should he be a college basketball coach? Probably not. A more interesting question is: Should anyone? 



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FINAL FOUR

By the numbers



JEFF WHEELER

2001

Last year Minneapolis hosted the Final Four. Duke won that year's championship in the Metrodome.

72,000

Estimated maximum capacity of U.S. Bank Stadium for the Final Four, or roughly 5,000 more bodies than fit there for Vikings games.

10

Final Four appearances in Michigan State history. The school has won twice (1979, 2000).

500

Private planes expected to land in the Twin Cities this week, a dropoff of 1,100 from last year's Super Bowl.

40

Men's tournament teams (roughly 60 percent) with player graduation rates 80 percent or higher. By comparison, 59 women's teams (92 percent) see four out of five players earn degrees.

0

Combined Final Four appearances in Texas Tech and Auburn school history; Virginia has made it twice (1981, 1984).

10.5

Estimated TV rating for Michigan State's thrilling 68-67 upset of Duke, the highest rating for a quarterfinal contest since 2004.

83

Games Texas Tech's Tariq Owens played at other schools (Tennessee, St. John's) before transferring to play in Lubbock.

\$1.06 billion

Total revenue of the NCAA in the 2017 fiscal year, the most recent available, with roughly 82 percent of it generated by the men's basketball tournament.

2

Years of suspension for Kansas stand-out Silvio de Sousa, whose guardian sought an illicit payment from a fan that was ultimately never made.

\$11.3 million

Combined salaries of the four head coaches; Michigan State's Tom Izzo tops the quartet at \$4.2 million.

2

Michigan State players who physically restrained Izzo as he berated freshman Aaron Henry during a recent timeout.

154

Listed weight of 5-foot-9 Virginia freshman Kihei Clark, whose whipped pass set up Mamadi Diakite's wide open and overtime-forcing jump shot against Purdue.

3

Schools where Auburn coach Bruce Pearl has faced recruiting scandals.

1

Minutes Michigan State junior guard Cassius Winston has sat on the bench in his last two games.

353

Rank of Virginia's pace of play, nationally. That's dead fucking last, and has kept opponents to 55 points per game, compared to Virginia's average of 71.

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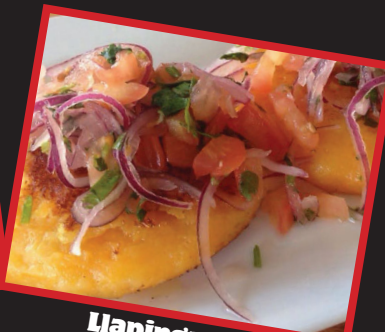



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BY JAY BOLLER, EMILY CASSEL,
AND KEITH HARRIS

We're pretty sure we speak for everyone when we say: Lllllet's pllllay ballll! The sun is shining, Byron Buxton is (yet again) teasing his sky-high potential, and the folk-hero status of Willians "La Tortuga" Astudillo just keeps growing. The bats are crackin', the Crackers are Jackin', and we're all snackin': As always, your 2019 trip to Target Field includes a whole new lineup of food and drink options. Who should you have on your roster this year? We scarfed down the general concessions rookies and ranked 'em with CP's highly scientific Strikeout!, Walk!, Home Run! System.

GRAND SLAM!

Chicken & Waffle Cone

This 2019-20 season is already a historic one, folks: For the first time ever, we're awarding a newbie with a grand slam. This World Series hopeful sandwiches a slab of bacon thicker than David Ortiz's neck between two crispy, golden chicken tenders. You know how sometimes chicken strips are actually kind of tough? These are genuinely tender—the texture all nuggets, strips, and fried-chicken affiliates should aspire to. With those three meats on base, a drizzle of sugary maple syrup steps up to the plate and sends the ball sailing over the fences. It's all sticking out of a generic Joy-brand waffle cone. Fitting, as "joy" is exactly what you'll feel as you wolf the thing down. (\$10.50, *Section 109 and 311 Grill Stands*)

HOME RUN!

Soul Bowls

Chef Gerard Klass's South-meets-'Sota soul food stylings are totally new to Target this year. Soul Bowl makes fans the Rocco Baldelli of their ballpark food experience: You build the lineup, with choices including #MPLS Mac and Cheese, Rick Ross Smoked Mushrooms, and Shaggy Yellow Rice. We got ours with Biggie BBQ Braised Beef and Jill Scott Greens piled atop gooey mac in a savory/sweet/mushy/chewy combo that handily rounds the bases. (Pick 2 \$10; Pick 3 \$14, *Soul Bowl, Section 120*)

Roots for the Home Team Northside Fresh Salad

A complicated salad is a dangerous thing. So though the sweet potatoes, currants, and

RANKING THE ROOKIES

The best and worst of Target Field's new concessions



LUCY HAWTHORNE

WALK!

avocado lime dressing here are satisfying enough on their own, what's best about them is that they don't overwhelm the delicious garden salad basics—tomatoes, cucumbers, bell peppers—which taste like they've just been picked. That is, for once, a wholly earned "fresh" in the name of this dish. And the crispy wontons and pepitas on top give the whole shebang that little extra snap. (*Price varies, Gate 34*)

Peanut Butter n' Jelly Candied Bacon Sandwich

This is a sammy that says, "Nice try, Elvis, but we like our PB and bacon without sliced bananas trying to health-ify it!" For a gussied-up take on a lunchbox classic, you couldn't do much better. You've got warm, oozy peanut butter on one slice of bread, just-this-side-of-sweet jelly slathered on the other, and crunchy candied bacon between 'em, with crisp grill marks lining the sourdough shell like a freshly dragged infield. (\$10, *Section 114*)

Roots for the Home Team Bollywood Smash Salad

Sorghum, mint, and raisins help extract the flavor from the roasted cauliflower and chickpeas, and the sunflower seed-topped bok choy slaw is crisp enough to hold its own against a tangy mango vinaigrette. Honestly, the worst thing we can say about this salad? It isn't quite the Northside Fresh Salad, which is easily your top new vegetarian option at the ballpark. So, let's say... recommended to salad-eating season-ticket holders looking for an occasional change-up. (*Price varies, Gate 34*)

Curds & Cakes Cheese Curds

Debate raged so fiercely over these damn curds that the City Pages Ballpark Eats Review Squad—once considered the tightest-knit pals and colleagues—nearly crumbled. One faction enjoyed the jumbo-sized, mega-breaded balls of cheese; the

other considered them doughy salt-bombs. The ideal curd is either raw and squeaky or gooey and stringy; these are neither, instead occupying a craggy in-between. At the same time, they're golf ball-sized deep-fried Ellsworth Creamery curds that you dunk into ranch dressing, and that's a formula that's hard to fully fuck up. We'll give 'em a walk... though that fourth ball is hotly contested. (\$8-\$15, *Home Run Porch*)

STRIKEOUT!

Grown-Up Grilled Cheese

When you're a kid you think being grown up is gonna rule. You'll be able to stay up late, you won't have to go to school, and you can eat whatever you want. But as you get older you start to understand the downsides of adulthood. Work. Taxes. A gourmet thick-slice brioche grilled cheese with marinated tomatoes that are so acidic they completely overpower the smoked cheddar and provolone. (\$8, *Section 114*)

Philly Cheesesteak

The hoagie bun? Stale, yet somehow overly puffy. The shaved sirloin? Flavorless and gray. The cheese sauce? Barely apparent. The peppers and onions? WHATEVER. The entire endeavor is as joyless as it is flavorless, which is really saying something when applied to a junky classic like the noble cheesesteak. All that's made worse by the pretentious way this new sandwich is billed: as a "craft sandwich." Get outta here like a 460-foot Miguel Sano moonshot. (\$10, *Section 114*)

Mimosa Mary

Billed as a "change-up" on the traditional 'roid-raging Bloody abomination—which last year came topped with an entire breakfast sandwich and weighed as much as a newborn—this lighter option mixes a fruit juice blend with vodka and champagne. It tastes overwhelmingly of the too-sweet OJ poured from plastic jugs at church potlucks, with little fizz and even less fun. The fruit skewer includes fresh berries and grapes, but also honeydew, a terrible filler melon bringing its batting average way down. Plus, something just feels wrong about it. An afternoon at the ballpark calls for light beers, domestic drafts... a Surly or a Summit if you're feeling fancy. This one's a whiff. (\$16, *Hrbeks*)

Find a full ranking of rookie eats at citypages.com.

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APR 07



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MAY 03



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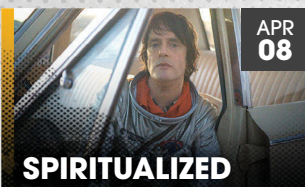
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APR 13 & 14



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APR 20



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(of Shannon and the Clams)

MAY 01 & 02



LUCIUS
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MAY 10 & 11

FINE LINE



WILD BELLE
W/ STACY K

APR 03



MARSHALL CRENSHAW AND THE BOTTLE ROCKETS

APR 04



YAM HAUS AND EARLY EYES
W/ LAST IMPORT

APR 05



ROGER CLYNE & THE PEACEMAKERS
W/ MILES NIELSEN

APR 12



TAUK
W/ FROGLEG

APR 13



of Montreal
W/ YIP DECEIVER

APR 17



HAND HABITS
W/ TOMBERLIN, HALF TRAMP

APR 03



KOLARS
W/ BRETT NEWSKI & THE NO TOMORROW

APR 10



FINDING NOVYON AND RAJITHEONE
W/ SHAFFER JONES

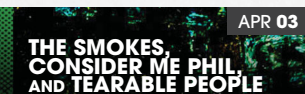
APR 04



DAVE HAUSE & THE MERMAID
W/ AUSTIN PLAINE

APR 11

TURF CLUB



THE SMOKES, CONSIDER ME PHIL, AND TEARABLE PEOPLE

APR 03



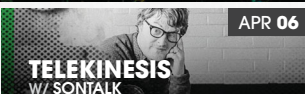
THE WILD REEDS
W/ VALLEY QUEEN

APR 04



AN EVENING WITH DEAD HORSES

APR 05



TELEKINESIS
W/ SONTALK

APR 06



LAURA JANE GRACE AND THE DEVOURING MOTHERS
W/ MERCY UNION, CONTROL TOP

APR 07



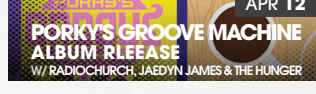
THE COATHANGERS
W/ BIG BITE, BLACK WIDOWS

APR 08



THE BREVET AND THE UNLIKELY CANDIDATES
W/ HENRY JAMES PATTERSON

APR 06



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W/ RADIOCHURCH, JAEDYN JAMES & THE HANGER

APR 12



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W/ BRAYTON MEYER, J.J.L, ROSIE

APR 08



ANOMALIE LIVE
W/ ROB ARAUJO

APR 13

AROUND TOWN



OLIVIA O'BRIEN
W/ KEVIN GEORGE
AMSTERDAM BAR & HALL

APR 03



AVEY TARE
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APR 07



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Icehouse MPLS

APR 13



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APR 14



MISSIO
W/ BLACKILLAC, SWELLS
AMSTERDAM BAR & HALL

APR 16

A LIST

FRIDAY Dystopian flicks from the '80s p. 22

SATURDAY Burning Brothers turns 5 p. 23

SUNDAY Ken Jeong is at Mystic Lake p. 24

Horned beasts, My Little Pony, and other creatures convene for "The Unicorn Art Show."



ANGEL HAWARI

WEDNESDAY 4.3

DANCE/FILM/POETRY

THE MEMOIR OF MONA LISA AND OTHER POEMS

BRYANT-LAKE BOWL THEATER

Poetry! Dance! Film! Su Smallen Love had a yen to explore the intersection of those three artforms, so she commissioned three veteran choreographers to create dance films inspired by her newest collection, *The Memoir of Mona Lisa and Other Poems*. To celebrate its publication, she'll

read the poems that inspired the films, screen the films, and talk about making art from art with the choreographers, filmmakers, and performers. Becky Heist's "Life Drawings" is based on three poems that brought the body into our Minnesota landscape. Christopher Watson's "between us a fault line" presents abstract reflections of physical and psychological intimacies, with animation by Leila Awadallah and music by Hilary James. Working in collaboration with Awadallah and performer Morgan Veldhuizen, Judith Howard responds to a sonnet

sequence in which Mona Lisa reveals her relationship with her husband and her husband's male lover. Howard's "Vanishing Point" employs imagery from the poem to create a sensuous counter portrait of Mona Lisa with narrative around a line from the poem: "I would clothe myself with this surface. I would be a man." 7 p.m. \$6-\$15 sliding scale. Smallen will also be at Open Book Friday, April 26, at 7:30 p.m. 810 W. Lake St., Minneapolis; 612-825-3737. —LINDA SHAPIRO

TALKS

MACK LECTURE SERIES

WALKER ART CENTER

The Mack Lecture Series is killer this year. The annual program brings writers, thinkers, artists, and innovators into our lives to shake up our perceptions and illuminate our prejudices. Things kick off Wednesday with Pulitzer Prize finalist Rukmini Callimachi, a journalist who documents Al Qaeda and the Islamic State while examining social media and the internet as tools and weapons. Author Claudia Rankine takes the stage next (April 10), reading from her powerful new play, *The White Card*. Philosopher Mark Kingwell (April 17) muses on boredom and screen addiction. Artist Ed Atkins closes things out on April 24 with thoughts on the digitization of our lives, giving a performance of the poem "The Morning Roundup" by Gilbert Sorrentino. 7 p.m. \$25; \$12 students. 2820 E. 33rd St., Minneapolis; 612-424-5468. **Through April 24 —CAMILLE LEFEVRE**

THURSDAY 4.4

FILM/FESTIVAL

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One of the longest-running film fests returns this week. Now in its 38th year, MSPIFF brings an insane number of films to Minnesota. Over 250 flicks will screen; programs include women-made

films, animation shorts, horror movies, and documentaries. There will be local productions, plus works from Africa, Asia, Latin America, and pretty much every other corner of the world. There are films about political unrest, films about global warming, and films about people coming of age. Opening night includes a screening of *Yuli*, which tells the incredible story of Carlos Acosta (known as Yuli), who went from life on the streets of Havana to lead dancer with London's Royal Ballet. Festival attendees will be invited to enjoy a variety of receptions and parties with actors, filmmakers, and other creatives, and free MetroTransit rides are available online. For tickets and the complete lineup, visit mspfilm.org. \$15; \$8 kids and students. 115 Main St. SE, Minneapolis; 612-331-4723. **Through April 20 —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER**

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CHRISTINA P.

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Onstage, Christina Pazsitzky, lately shortened to Christina P., isn't afraid to get a little silly. That comes from her background writing and doing voices for animation. "It helped me incorporate that silliness into my act and that fearlessness. You have to be fearless voicing animation or it will fall flat," she says. Pazsitzky was raised in southern California by Hungarian immigrant parents. Living a sheltered life spent in an all-girls Catholic school, she discovered comedy as a way to overcome her self-described dorkiness. "I majored in philosophy," she tells her audience, "because I heard there was an opening at the Philosophy Company. Then I found out that the head philosopher position was filled... in 1497." In addition to headlining comedy clubs, she also hosts the popular podcast *Your Mom's House* with husband and fellow comic Tom Segura. 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday; 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. \$27.75. 708 N. First St., Minneapolis; 612-338-6393. **Through Saturday —P.F. WILSON**

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21 ►

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A-LIST



COURTESY OF ILLUSION THEATER

CONTINUED FROM THURSDAY ►

COMEDY

MONROE MARTIN

RICK BRONSON'S HOUSE OF COMEDY

"I'm talking about being married because that's all new to me," says comedian Monroe Martin. "No one really did the marriage thing in my life. A lot of my friends got married, but growing up I lived with a lot of single parents and people who didn't believe in marriage because it didn't work out." Martin grew up in Philadelphia, and spent most of his youth in foster care. For a while, he didn't talk about that in his set. His new wife's advice was to put it back in so he and his comedy could continue to grow. She wasn't much of a standup fan before she met Monroe. "Her friends dragged her to a comedy club, and that's where we met," he adds. "She likes me a lot and it's weird," he says. As someone who isn't in the business, she offers a unique perspective. "I know a lot of people who are in relationships and their significant other doesn't care about what they do for a living, but she really cares. She really thinks I'm funny." He doesn't run jokes by her, but if he has an idea she'll help him get to the funny. "She'll say, 'That makes sense, because of X, Y, and Z.' She'll help me connect the dots." 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday; 9:45 p.m. Friday; 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday; 9:30 p.m. Saturday. \$16-\$23. 408 E. Broadway, Mall of America, Bloomington; 952-858-8558. **Through Sunday —P.F. WILSON**

FRIDAY 4.5

THEATER

BE MORE CHILL

ILLUSION THEATER

Based on a novel by Ned Vizzini, *Be More Chill* centers on Jeremy, an ostracized high school junior clinging to the lowest

rungs of the social ladder. Desperate to elevate his status and impress the girl of his dreams, Jeremy ingests a pill called "super quantum unit intel processor," better known as SQUIP, which promptly latches onto his brain for behavior modification. Unfortunately, SQUIP logic runs contrary to Jeremy's conscience, resulting in a play that works as an imaginative Faustian comedy for the 21st century. Youthful exuberance and irreverent wit are amplified by the raucous score from Joe Iconis and bolstered even further with an energetic book by Joe Tracz. This highly anticipated local premiere has Sara Pillatzki-Warzeha directing a talented young cast headlined by Maxwell Emmett Ward, last seen in Minneapolis Musical Theatre's adaptation of *High Fidelity*. 7:30 p.m. Fridays through Sundays; check online for the complete schedule. \$29-\$35. 528 Hennepin Ave. N., Minneapolis; 612-339-4944.

Through April 28 —BRAD RICHASON

FILM

REAGANLAND: 1980S DYSTOPIA

TRYLON CINEMA

While some recall the Reagan presidency as a time of booming prosperity, cultural anxieties ran deep throughout the era, evidenced by this Trylon series. Witness the desolation of humanity in *Blade Runner (The Final Cut)* (1982/2007), a sci-fi noir involving artificially engineered beings staking a desperate claim on existence, or in *1984* (1984), a disorienting adaptation of Orwell's depiction of a totalitarian state with no tolerance for independent thought. Cult favorite *Repo Man* (1984) fuses sci-fi tropes with punk ethos in the pursuit of a Chevy Impala with extraterrestrial mysteries stashed in its trunk, while

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23 ►

FRIDAY

DANCE

MEG STUART/
DAMAGED GOODS

WALKER ART CENTER

Dance critics and historians have long argued that the American-born, Brussels-based dancer and choreographer Meg Stuart is one of the eminent artists of our time. She developed her signature style through evolving her training in contact improv and release technique, and now her oeuvre includes solos, group works, and installations. This week she arrives with a posse for a double-header, a retrospective of sorts that examines and celebrates her range and her influence. With the body—its vulnerability and its power—as her focus, Stuart performs an evening of solos and duets, and then moves to the gallery with Indonesian visual artist Jompet Kuswidananto for an incandescent evening the following week. 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, plus Thursday, April 11. \$25-\$30. 725 Vineland Place, Minneapolis; 612-375-7600. **Through April 13 —CAMILLE LEFEVRE**



LAURA VAN SEVEREN

CONTINUED FROM SATURDAY ►

Videodrome (1983) concerns a man whose obsession with underground broadcasts instigates a harrowing transformation. *The Terminator* (1984) introduces Arnold Schwarzenegger as an unstoppable cyborg transported into the past to kill the mother of a future leader. *They Live* (1988) imagines a society infiltrated by nefarious aliens who have narcotized the populace through subliminal messages, and *Brazil* (1985) prophesizes an absurdly bureaucratic future where lives are spent toiling to maintain monstrous machines. *Akira* (1988), a crime classic from Japan, pits two bikers against a telekinetic government, while racial tensions are satirized in *The Brother from Another Planet* when an alien slave hides out in Harlem. Even more mayhem arrives from outer space with *The Hidden* (1987), featuring a body-swapping extraterrestrial inflicting widespread carnage upon greater Los Angeles. Visit www.trylon.org for the complete schedule. \$8. 2820 E. 33rd St., Minneapolis; 612-424-5468. **Through April 30 —BRAD RICHASON**

SATURDAY 4.6

ART

THE UNICORN ART SHOW

ARTSPACE JACKSON FLATS

Now in its fifth year, “The Unicorn Art Show” has brought artists and art lovers together through the magic of the fairy realm. For this installment, more than 100 artists will be sharing works featuring creatures from faraway lands. Some pieces are super cute, some are beautiful, and some are a little terrifying (fantasy worlds often include dragons, wolves, and other beasts, after all). The

opening-night party will be spellbinding, with attendees encouraged to come in their best attire as princesses, wizards, fairies, or other mythical beings. The event will also include tarot sessions, fire dancing, face painting, food-truck eats, and beer and cocktails from 4 to 11 p.m. Saturday, April 6. There is a \$5 suggested donation. 901 18 1/2 Ave. NE, Minneapolis; 612-333-9012. **Sundays through April —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER**

BEER

5 YEAR ANNIVERSARY PARTY

BURNING BROTHERS BREWING

The time sure flies when you’re drinking beer. It’s already been five years since the owners of St. Paul’s Burning Brothers Brewing stopped breathing fire at the Renaissance Fair and started making gluten-free beer. For Saturday’s celebration, they’ll tap eight special selections, each chosen by a staff member, including Blueberry Pancake Ale, Imperial Stout, and a German ALT beer. They’ll also be serving up their core lineup, and the citrusy summer hit Parched Lime Shandy will return. There will be three gluten-free food trucks dishing eats and raffle prizes include a private beer party, free beer for a year, and more. Noon to 10 p.m. Free. 1750 W. Thomas Ave., St. Paul; 651-444-8882. **—LOREN GREEN**

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April
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Lily of the Valley
CRAFT & GIFT EXPO

Schmitz-Maki Arena
Farmington, MN

SUNDAY
April
7
10am–3pm

Hope for a Cure
CRAFT & GIFT BENEFIT

Cottage Grove VFW
Cottage Grove, MN

SUNDAY
April
7
10am–3pm

Colors of Spring
CRAFT & GIFT EXPO

Adrenaline Sports Center
Ramsey, MN

SUNDAY
April
7
10am–3pm

Perfectly Rosemount
CRAFT SHOW

Rosemount American Legion
Rosemount, MN

SATURDAY
April
13
10am–3pm

St. Paul Bazaar
CRAFT & GIFT EXPO

Charles Schultz Arena
St. Paul, MN

SUNDAY
April
14
10am–3pm

April Showers
CRAFT & GIFT EXPO

Chaska Event Center
Chaska, MN

SATURDAY
April
27
10am–3pm

Hopping into Spring
CRAFT & GIFT EXPO

Hippodrome
White Bear Lake, MN

SUNDAY
April
28
10am–3pm

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A-LIST

Comedian Ken Jeong returns to standup.



ORDAN STRAUSS/INVISION/AP

gardens, adorable patios, or garage murals that you never knew existed. This weekend, Christian Huelsman of Minneapolis Alley Initiative for Neighborhood Stimulation will lead a guided bike tour of some of the public art to be found in Whittier, Lyndale, Powderhorn, and Phillips alleyways. This ride will be a relatively chill one, accessible to most levels, covering around 10 miles. Come with a bike and a helmet; you can sign up at BrownPaperTickets.com. Noon to 3 p.m. \$12. 2303 Third Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-870-1329. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

McNulty at Rosalux. Both are rich in abstraction and materiality. McNulty's layers of textural color—applied with shoe palette knife, brooms, and other tools—are exciting innovations in gesture and color. Ditty's quiet explorations illuminate the spaces in between line, form, and brushstroke. Both create supremely contemplative paintings, and you may find yourself staring for minutes into the finer recesses of the work. There will be an opening reception on Saturday, April 6, from 7 to 10 p.m. 1400 Van Buren St. NE, Ste. 195, Minneapolis. **Through April 28 —CAMILLE LEFEVRE**

SUNDAY 4.7

COMEDY

KEN JEONG

MYSTIC LAKE CASINO HOTEL

It almost feels like a rule that if you make a bro-comedy movie, you have to include Ken Jeong. From his role as Leslie Chao in all the *Hangover* movies, to his appearances in *Pineapple Express*, *Role Models*, *Knocked Up*, and *Crazy Rich Asians*, Jeong is one of those people you know you can count on for a laugh. Long before he was pantomiming jacking off on the big screen, however, Jeong began his career as a standup comedian, winning competitions and performing regularly in clubs all over the country. With the recent release of his first Netflix comedy special, Jeong is hitting the road again and returning to his standup roots. His stories about growing up as a South Korean immigrant in North Carolina, his former career as a practicing physician, and his ascent to Hollywood mega-stardom make Jeong's show equal parts standup and A-list stories. You'll get the behind-the-scenes dirt on some of his uber-famous co-stars and find out how many jokes he can make about his wife's last name (Ho). 8 p.m. \$29-\$55. 2400 Mystic Lake Blvd., Prior Lake; 800-262-7799. —PATRICK STRAIT

DANCE

BALLET CO.LABORATORY: GENTLE HUMAN

THE COWLES CENTER

When artistic director Zoe Emilie Henrot was fired from St. Paul Ballet last August, it was the beginning of a journey both for Henrot and the former SPB ensemble members who quit in protest. They formed a new company, Ballet Co.Laboratory, which makes its Cowles Center debut this weekend. *Gentle Human* reflects on the events that led to the new company's formation, and uses poetry from Nikita Gill's *Wild Embers*. A London-based British-Indian poet, Gill has become popular on Instagram for her feminist verse. The company is founded on tenets of collaboration and exploration, while also pushing against tropes of what ballet is supposed to be. 7:30 p.m. Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday. \$24-\$36. 528 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis; 612-206-3600. **Through Sunday —SHEILA REGAN**

ART/GALLERY

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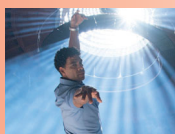
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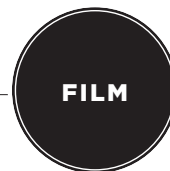
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THE DIRT

Bad wigs and worse acting in Mötley Crüe biopic



JAKE GILES NETTER/NETFLIX

BY TONY LIBERA

Nobody turns on a Mötley Crüe movie in search of high art, and yet even the lowest expectations can't help *The Dirt*. In the grand mythology of glam metal excess, Crüe's exploits are the stuff of legend. But Netflix's take on sex, drugs, and rock 'n' roll plays out like every other bland music biography.

The Dirt opens with Nikki Sixx (Douglas Booth) waxing philosophical about the '80s and declaring the band to be "a gang of fucking idiots." The camera zips down the Sunset Strip to a party at an apartment. Tommy Lee (Colson Baker, aka Machine Gun Kelly) decides to go down on a woman in the middle of the living room. Sixx lights his arm on fire to show how badass he is. Vince Neil (Daniel Webber) is banging somebody's girlfriend in the bathroom. Mick Mars (Iwan Rheon) lies in bed like a vampire. The intro climaxes with Lee's lady friend squirting across the living room.

As setups go it's extremely effective, though probably not in the way the producers intended.

It's worth noting that good biopics are few and far between. The genre doesn't

allow for any real originality, and even the most interesting life stories come off as one-dimensional when they're condensed to fit a two-hour Freytag pyramid.

That said, *The Dirt* fleshes out its source material (a sprawling autobiography with collaborator Neil Strauss) so superficially and ham-fistedly that the final product lands firmly in the biopic bottom tier. For the "World's Most Notorious Rock Band," this is one boring movie.

The film version does make some effort to be unique, breaking the fourth wall to tell us that some of the things we're seeing didn't actually happen. In theory, that's a clever play, especially when you're profiling a group whose own recollections of the good old days are muddled by Jack Daniel's, smack, and the ravages of age.

Most biopics tweak history to suit the script, but what *The Dirt* offers is often closer to fiction than reality. That point is driven home by the picture's insistence that Mötley Crüe were more revolutionary than they actually were, with an early guitarist marveling that the opening riff to "Live Wire" is "not like anything I've ever played before," and Sixx speaking about Mötley Crüe in the same breath as the Beatles.

THE DIRT

directed by Jeff Tremaine
 now streaming on Netflix

Beyond that, *The Dirt's* glamorization of objective awfulness feels a bit tone-deaf today. (Some of) these things did happen, so scrubbing the shittier moments would be insincere. Yet tackling assault, infidelity, and drug addiction in 2019 requires some delicateness. If you're hyped enough on Crüe to even start this movie, you probably don't care. But given the third act's dive into melodrama, you'd think the debauchery leading up to it would be portrayed with a more modern slant.

There isn't much dirt in *The Dirt*, only surface-level scans of stories any metalhead has heard a thousand times, from Ozzy Osbourne snorting ants to Nikki Sixx's death-defying heroin overdose. Those are of course batshit insane events, so the most glaring problem in cinematic terms is presentation. Bad wigs and worse acting combine with a cursory storyline to create a movie that's neither informative nor evocative. *The Dirt* makes *Bohemian Rhapsody* look like a masterpiece. 

THEATER

INCH BY INCH

Decades later, Hedwig has become a stage classic



DAN NORMAN

BY JAY GABLER

Hedwig doesn't exactly present herself as a likely favorite for theater companies across the country. In fact, it's intrinsic to the show's premise that she's not much of a draw. Spitting on the audience and flipping them off, Hedwig's barely managing to hold the show and herself together. She introduces a bracing tale of a life disrupted, with clinical details that may astonish unsuspecting theatergoers.

Yet John Cameron Mitchell's 1998 play has become a standard of American musical theater. Fueled by the success of Mitchell's 2001 movie and a Tony-winning 2014 Broadway production, *Hedwig* has become as common as *Annie*... or at least that's how it feels in the Twin Cities, where Theatre Latté Da's new take is one of at least three different productions to land since 2017.

Directed by Annie Enneking and Peter Rothstein, Latté Da's splashy production offers ample evidence of why this potentially thorny material has worked so well in so many different settings over so many years. As Hedwig herself acknowledges with her "punk gestures," she reads as a rock star, and we're used to such stars running hot and cold. Her cabaret schtick works on its own terms, and her constant costume changes keep audiences' eyes popping.

Most critically, Hedwig's story comes to a dramatic resolution that's satisfying without being overdetermined. Her journey remains open-ended, and while Mitchell has acknowledged he wouldn't write the same show again today, in many

HEDWIG AND THE ANGRY INCH

The Ritz Theater
345 13th Ave. NE, Minneapolis
612-339-3003; through May 5

ways *Angry Inch* doesn't feel as dated as its contemporary *Rent*.

To make Hedwig at home, scenic designer Michael Hoover has turned the Ritz Theater into a trailer park, with Hedwig's mobile dressing room as the only tenant. Emerging in costume designer Alice Frederickson's party-dress version of a Canadian tuxedo, Hedwig is very Midwestern, as East German émigrés go.

Tyler Michaels King stars as a Hedwig who's decidedly more Broadway than Bowery as he belts Stephen Trask's songs. With his powerful pipes, supreme physical confidence, and ability to project emotional openness without reading as naive, King is a perfect fit for this polished production. The play runs on the emotional undercurrent of Hedwig's relationship with her harried husband, Yitzhak, and in that role a winning Jay Owen Eisenberg immediately has our hearts.

The four-piece onstage band, led by music director Jason Hansen and featuring bonafide rock stars like bassist Mayda Miller, provides a suitably cacophonous experience; it would hardly be *Hedwig* if they weren't handing out earplugs at the door.

There's no one *Hedwig* for everyone, but Latté Da has created an accessible and highly theatrical production that celebrates the power of storytelling and the catharsis of turning it up to 11. **C**

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Christina P

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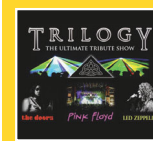
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Juliana Huxtable · Lil' Marvel · 2015 · Courtesy the artist and JTT, New York

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WALKER

STREET *Style*

GRRRL SCOUT DANCE PARTY At the Bird Rocks on Saturday, March 23 **BY AMY GEE**



DIZZY FAE
MUSICIAN, ARTIST

What are you wearing?

I'm wearing the first bite of breakfast and the last bite of dinner.

Who are your queer style icons?

It's hard because I think everyone's queer. Love is love.

One thing in your closet you can't live without?

I can't live without my boots.



DESIREE WRIGHT
27, STUDENT

What are you wearing?

Dress from Ragstock, shoes from JustFab.

Describe your style:

I like to be seen walking into a room.

Who are your queer style icons?

Cameron Esposito and Kristen Stewart.

One thing in your closet you can't live without:

My "Girls" crop top.



CHRIS LARSON
35, GRAPHIC DESIGNER, ILLUSTRATOR

What are you wearing?

Coat and oversize wool trousers from COS, a white tee, low top Doc Martens, 10-year-old watch cap, Klee earring by NEAL jewelry.

Describe your style:

Clean and messy, in the right measure.

Who are your queer style icons?

Berlin-era Bowie, Tilda Swinton, Ludovic de Saint Sernin.



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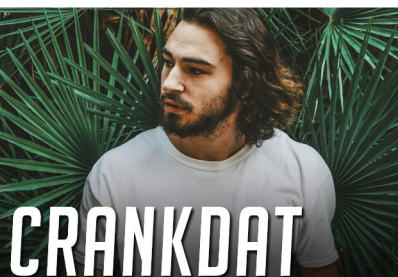
UPCOMING SHOWS



IT'S **GAME TIME** THIS WEEKEND AT SKYWAY THEATRE!



APR
05



CRANKDAT

W/ RAY VOLPE, MINESWEEPA & MOONBOY

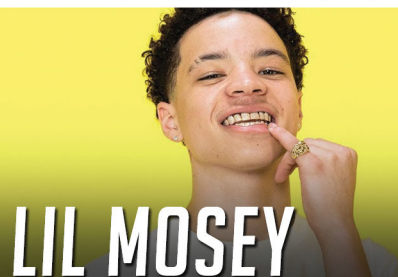
APR
06



DJ HODOR

THE OFFICIAL RAVE OF THRONES

APR
07



LIL MOSEY

W/ LIL TJAY, CGLIZZY, BANDKIDS & MORE

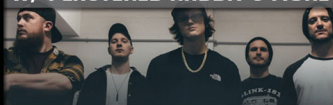
APR
06

HYPOCRISY
& FLESHGOD APOCALYPSE



APR
07

CALLING ALL CAPTAINS
W/ PLASTERED RABBIT & MORE



APR
09

CROWN THE EMPIRE
& WE CAME AS ROMANS



APR
10

NOBLE BODIES
W/ LOCAL SUPPORT



APR
11

NATIONAL PARKS
& WILD



APR
11

HATCHA
W/ LOCAL SUPPORT



APR
12

MALAA
W/ MATRODA



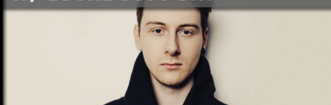
APR
13

PLAID HAWAII
& LWKY W/ JAILBREAK



APR
13

TISOKI
W/ LOCAL SUPPORT



APR
14

ELECTRIC WIZARD
W/ SUPPORT TBA



APR
14

DABABY
HOSTED BY BUDDY VEGAS



APR
18

ECHOS
W/ LOCAL SUPPORT



APR
18

BLOODTHINNERZ
W/ LOCAL SUPPORT



APR
20

HEROBUST
W/ KRIMER & HYDRAULIX



APR
25

TVBOO
& SHANGHAI DOOM



APR
26

DABIN
W/ IMAGINED HERBAL FLOWS



APR
26

MOTIONLESS IN WHITE
W/ ATREYU & WILSON



APR
26

FACE TO FACE
ACOUSTIC



APR
27

JAI WOLF
W/ HOTEL GARUDA & FORD



MAY
01

MC LARS
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VIEW FULL EVENT CALENDAR AT [SKYWAYTHEATRE.COM](http://skywaytheatre.com)

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05/02 THE VEER UNION W/ NEVERWAKE
05/03 TREVOR DANIEL W/ NOAH NORTH
05/03 VINCENT W/ HEX COUGAR
05/04 ADVENTURE CLUB W/ MIDNIGHT T
05/05 BOBAFLEX W/ DARK SKY CHOIR

05/10 CLOZEE W/ THRIFTWORKS
05/10 PERTURBATOR W/ GOST
05/11 DION TIMMER & DUBLOADZ
05/12 HATEBREED W/ OBITUARY
05/15 ANIMALS AS LEADERS
05/16 PARTYWAVE & PUSHLOOP

05/17 ESHAM
05/17 YELLOW CLAW W/ BLUNTS & BLONDES
05/18 FKJ
05/24 VAVO
05/25 PHASEONE W/ SLIMEZ
05/30 PIGEON HOLE

05/31 AUS W/ TRIVECTA
05/31 STORY PARTY TOUR NIGHT 1
06/01 STORY PARTY TOUR NIGHT 2
06/01 ELIMINATE W/ DODGE & FUSKI
07/02 AUGUST BURNS RED W/ SILVERSTEIN
08/01 BOYS OF SUMMER TOUR

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GRAHAM TOLBERT

LONESOME PINE

On *Stranger Angels*, David Huckfelt explores the wisdom of solitude and song

BY JIM WALSH

It was the fall of 2017, and David Huckfelt was deep into his two-week artist's residency at Isle Royale National Park.

Needing a place to chill and write the material that would become his debut solo album, *Stranger Angels*, the co-founder of the Pines one night found himself on this remote island on the northwest portion of Lake Superior, surrounded by the mostly unseen moose, wolves, bugs, gulls, ravens, osprey, squirrels, toads, mice, and other creatures of the forest, when he was faced with a familiar modern world vs. natural world dilemma.

"I'm standing on Scoville Point on Isle Royale, looking at the sky," says Huckfelt, nursing an Irish whiskey at Merlins Rest Pub. "I can see freighters, and I can see shooting stars, and I can see just a hint of the Northern Lights. And I'm like, what am I going to do, Instagram that? But you want to participate, so..."

So you strike a balance, between holding the moment close and sharing it; between solitude and community; between the calm cacophony of the woods and the constant

chaos of the city; between internal voice and external voices; between individuality and groupthink; between music-listening or book-reading and the internet; between the sights and sounds of a river in its natural habitat and pothole and construction season in the concrete jungle.

"Modern life is very unpeaceful and unsustainable," Huckfelt says. "I had 12 years of touring in the Pines, up to my neck in music-business bullshit, and I could not have written this batch of songs without cutting that totally off. Jim Harrison is one of my favorite writers and he said, 'You were a dog on a chain, and now there's no chain.'"

Longbefore Thoreau made Walden Pond synonymous with one human's search for meaning away from the numbers, artists have been attempting to document, replicate, and celebrate the wonders of silence and solitude in nature, and the riches to be found within. To get to that place, Huckfelt left the comforts of home for the biggest island on the world's biggest freshwater lake, located six hours by boat off the Michigan coast.

"There are a lot of switches that you can turn off and a few you can turn on," he says

of his time as an artist-in-residence selected by the National Park Service. "But the big one you turn off is the one that asks, 'OK, what can I get from this? To be involved with commerce and music or whatever it is, you have to have that switch on all the time: 'How can I get something from this?' And to go out to the woods, if you do it right, it's like a good road trip. You turn off that part that wants to know what you want to gain."

In fact, Huckfelt's sabbatical proved extremely fruitful. He wrote 16 songs in the woods and brought his bounty back to civilization. The 12 songs that make up *Stranger Angels* were recorded in a three-day session at a 110-year-old farmhouse studio in Menomonie with Huckfelt's band the Unarmed Forces, which includes drummer J.T. Bates; bassist Darin Gray; singers/guitarists Erik Koskinen, Jeremy Ylvisaker, and Michael Rossetto; singers Dave Simonett and Amelia Meath; electronica artist/sampler Andrew Broder; and organist Phil Cook, who will back the songwriter at his *Stranger Angels* dual release party (with Rossetto's Intermodal Blues) April 19 at the Cedar Cultural Center.

"My first call was to J.T. Bates, who's been my musical brother for 12 years," says Huckfelt. "He's got the biggest imagination and ears for music, the widest terrain, and he was like, 'How are we going to go about this?' And I went, 'I want these seven people in a room together for three days. That's all I want. I've saved my money, I'll get the

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WED, APR 10.....CENTURY JAZZ BIG BAND
THU, APR 11.....THE SMILING COWBOYS BAND
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4.13 MALAMANYA 9:00PM
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MUSIC

place.' We could've done overdubs and stuff, but I just knew if we had fires at night and if we were staying in a little schoolhouse and we had Jeremy Ylvisaker sleeping on the floor with the flu, you know, this was all going to be good for us."

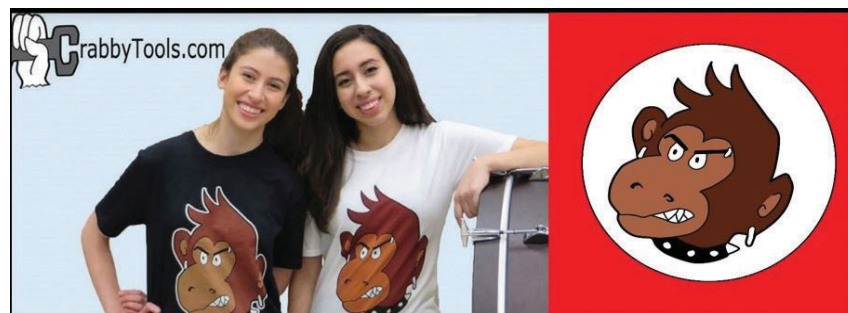
If Huckfelt's comparison of the freedom of an artist's retreat to a road trip holds, *Stranger Angels* is the sound of a very wise buddy riding shotgun into the great wide open, singing all the while about god, history, ancestors, spirits, love, sex, belonging, not belonging, stillness, the heart, nature, ghosts, the heavens, Mother Earth, St. Francis, and Black Elk. Heartfelt and hard-won advice percolate through every song, with Huckfelt a much-needed voice of depth, soul, and indignation. Indigenous people past and present haunt the record, which closes with "Star Nation," a hypnotic and chilling powwow featuring the voice of American Indian Movement activist/artist Floyd Red Crow Westerman.

Like an aural updating of the message at the heart of Wim Wenders' *Wings of Desire*, *Stranger Angels* gets at how the least among us can offer solace, kindness, and guidance in a cold world. "Gather everything you hold dear and practice giving it away," Huckfelt sings on the title track. "There's another world but it's in this world/Stranger angels know the way."

"I'm not a control freak," says Huckfelt. "I control my part of it, and the songs say what I want them to say. Koskinen and Rosetto, these are guys who, every time they touch something, they find a way to make it speak better. I think when that spark starts flying around, that's old-school, that's like Tom Petty making records. We go in there together, we have a hell of a good time, and it's an event, and we all walk away going, 'Holy shit, what happened?'"

Stranger Angels sounds like a radio station broadcasting from a remote outpost, all the while acknowledging the tumult of modern life, and set to a timeless mix of banjos, organ, acoustic and electric guitars, and earthy rhythms. "Give me a moment of silence after a season of violence," he sings on "The Lost 40," while "As Below, So Above" celebrates the thin veil between life and death and how "the end is not the end." On "Everywind," he sings, "I'm standing 'neath the gallows of 2017/And it occurs to the songbirds whose nests are in shambles to take heart in times like these."

It's a project Huckfelt could never have completed in the same way without retreating to Isle Royale. "They're such conservationists," he says of the National Park Service. "And they were so protective of my privacy, my quiet, no people around. So I was thinking, what can I do? Isle Royale has the least amount of visitors of any national park in the country. It'd be great if people went there." 



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Saturday, Apr. 6 7:00 pm Adam Meckler Orchestra Album Release Party	Saturday Matinee, Apr. 6 1 pm The Muppet Movie (1979) Digital
Sunday, Apr. 7 7:30 pm Al Church's Cinematic Orchestra Presents: <i>Nosferatu</i> (1922) Silent Film SCORED LIVE!	Apr. 8 - 10 Minneapolis St. Paul International Film Festival
Thursday, Apr. 11 The Breakfast Club (1985) Digital Pre-Show Music Annie & the Bang Bang	

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Apr 10 Boot R&B, GooGooMucks,
The Toxenes, Slim Stone
Apr 11 Magic Shoppe,
Another Heaven, Pussytoes
Apr 12 The Havana Sleeve
Album Release Show
with BSM, Lazear and Nallo
Apr 13 EARLY SHOW
She Rock All Ages Jam
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Ceschi, Factor Chandelier,
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56										57			
58										59			

GOOF PROOF

BY BRENDAN EMMETT QUIGLEY

Across

- 1 Google's alternative to Excel
- 7 Makeup of some tennis courts
- 14 Six-sided screw holder
- 15 Sing to
- 16 Secret things
- 17 Became stressed
- 18 Approving words to put a slant on a word?
- 20 Programmable thermostats with hidden microphones
- 21 Word in many a soccer club chant
- 22 Morse code sound
- 24 Dir. at roughly 4:00
- 25 ___ diavolo
- 26 Convention center rental
- 28 Costs for removing font styles?
- 33 Simply the best
- 34 Tortoise's rival
- 35 "You don't need my input to overrule changes in the manuscript"?
- 40 Open horse carriages
- 41 Koln cooler
- 42 Sports org. with a tri-colored ball
- 45 Bring home
- 46 Flash before one's eye?
- 47 Momoa who played Aquaman

- 49 "Hey bro, tell me which one of these I'm gonna strike down the galley"?
- 54 One way to fight
- 55 Single breath mint
- 56 2009 animated movie based on a 2002 Neil Gaiman novel
- 57 Top
- 58 Took every penny from
- 59 Moogs and Korgs, e.g.

Down

- 1 Philadelphia Flyers star Gostisbehere
- 2 David Bowie album in the Berlin trilogy
- 3 One forgiving
- 4 Put on the books
- 5 Bigeye and skipjack, e.g.
- 6 Be an overzealous fan
- 7 Pilgrim in Chaucer's "Canterbury Tales"
- 8 "I also saw an egret, an emu, and an ___ who was building an aerie." (Roz Chast on crosswords)
- 9 Arnaz of early TV
- 10 Popular tech website
- 11 1919 Albert Payson Terhune book
- 12 Overpraise
- 13 "You betcha"
- 15 WWII camp
- 19 Stinger
- 23 CDC overseer
- 25 All done

- 26 San Francisco transportation system
- 27 City near Provo
- 29 Like some energy bars
- 30 Levels the playing field?
- 31 Fight or flight, e.g.
- 32 Fraulein's flat
- 35 Phish fan's collectible?
- 36 It's pulled over the eyes of the gullible
- 37 Roadside diner's come-on
- 38 "Too funny"
- 39 Retire with grace
- 43 ___ looks
- 44 Battery bumps
- 46 Without sympathy
- 47 Aspic part
- 48 Celebrity chef Brown
- 50 Somewhat
- 51 Spoke out loud
- 52 Mix things up
- 53 Slight touches
- 54 Getting shit done, initially

Last Week's Answer

A	S	N	E	R		H	E	F		O	R	C	A
A	H	O	L	E		C	A	N	I		F	O	U
R	E	L	I	G	I	O	U	S	R	E	F	O	R
P	A	T				M	A	E		E	X	T	
			R	E	F	L	E	X	R	E	S	P	O
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9:30pm : mississippi hot club

thu : april 4
9:30pm : ben cook-feltz,
nikki and the ruemates,
becky kapell

fri : april 5
7pm : laura and sean's
movie and music trivia

9:30pm : loss leader,
edward the confessor, short timer

sat : april 6
7pm : trivia mafia presents
331 drinkin' spelling bee

10pm : brass messengers

sun : april 7
3-5:30pm : corpse reviver
(harry smith's anthology of american folk music)

8pm : trivia mafia

mon : april 8
8pm : the roe family singers

10pm : doug otto and friends

tue : april 9
7-9pm : t.e.e. tuesday early evening
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>> By Rob Brezsný

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19): A mushroom shaped like a horse's hoof grows on birch trees in parts of Europe and the U.S. If you strip off its outer layer, you get amadou, spongy stuff that's great for igniting fires. It's not used much anymore, but it was a crucial resource for some of our ancestors. As for the word "amadou," it's derived from an old French term that means "tinder, kindling, spunk." The same word was formerly used to refer to a person who is quick to light up or to something that stimulates liveliness. In accordance with astrological omens, I'm making "Amadou" your nickname for the next four weeks.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20): "Human beings are not born once and for all on the day their mothers give birth to them," wrote novelist Gabriel Garcia Marquez. "Life obliges them over and over to give birth to themselves." Here's what I'll add to that: As you mature, you do your best to give birth to ever-new selves that are in alignment with the idealistic visions you have of the person you want to become. Unfortunately, most of us aren't skilled at that task in adolescence and early adulthood, and so the selves we create may be inadequate or delusory or distorted. Fortunately, as we learn from our mistakes, we eventually learn to give birth to selves that are strong and righteous. The only problem is that the old false selves we generated along the way may persist as ghostly echoes in our psyche. And we have a sacred duty to banish those ghostly echoes. I tell you this, Taurus, because the coming months will be an excellent time to do that banishing. Ramp up your efforts NOW!

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20): "When spring came, there were no problems except where to be happiest," wrote Ernest Hemingway in his memoir. He quickly amended that statement, though, mourning, "The only thing that could spoil a day was people." Then he ventured even further, testifying, "People were always the limiters of happiness except for the very few that were as good as spring itself." I bring these thoughts to your attention so as to prepare you for some good news. In the next three weeks, I suspect you will far exceed your quota for encounters with people who are not "limiters of happiness"—who are as good as spring itself.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22): It's time to prove that Cancerians have more to offer than nurturing, empathizing, softening the edges, feeling deeply, getting comfortable, and being creative. Not that there's anything wrong with those talents. On the contrary! They're beautiful and necessary. It's just that for now you need to avoid being pigeonholed as a gentle, sensitive soul. To gather the goodies that are potentially available to you, you'll have to be more forthright and aggressive than usual. Is it possible for you to wield a commanding presence? Can you add a big dose of wilfulness and a pinch of ferocity to your self-presentation? Yes and yes!

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): General Motors manufactured a car called the Pontiac Aztek from 2001 to 2005. It wasn't commercially successful. One critic said it looked like "an angry kitchen appliance," and many others agreed it was exceptionally unstylish. But later the Aztek had an odd revival because of the popularity of the TV show Breaking Bad. The show's protagonist, Walter White, owned one, and that motivated some of his fans to emulate his taste in cars. In accordance with astrological omens, Leo, I suspect that something of yours may also enjoy a second life sometime soon. An offering that didn't get much appreciation the first time around may undergo a resurgence. Help it do so.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): "Of all the female sins, hunger is the least forgivable," laments feminist author Laurie Penny. She's referring to the hunger "for anything, for food, sex, power, education, even love." She continues: "If we have desires, we are expected to conceal them, to control them, to keep ourselves in check. We are supposed to be objects of desire, not desiring beings." I've quoted her because I suspect it's crucial for you to not suppress or hide your longings in the coming weeks. That's triply true if you're a woman, but also important if you're a man or some other gender. You have a potential to heal deeply if you get very clear about what you hunger for and then express it frankly.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Only one of Nana Mouskouris's vocal cords works, but over the course of an almost 60-year career, the Libran singer has sold over 30 million records in twelve different languages. Many critics speculate that her apparent disadvantage is key to her unique style. She's a coloratura mezzo, a rare category of chanteuse who sings ornate passages with exceptional agility and purity. In the coming weeks, I suspect that you will be like Mouskouris in your ability to capitalize on a seeming lack or deprivation.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your tribe is symbolized by three animals: the scorpion, the eagle, and the mythological phoenix. Some astrologers say that the scorpion is the ruling creature of "unevolved" or immature Scorpions, whereas the eagle and phoenix are associated with those of your tribe who express the ripier, more enlightened qualities of your sign. But I want to put in a plug for the scorpion as being worthy of all Scorpions. It is a hardy critter that rivals the cockroach in its ability to survive—and even thrive in—less than ideal conditions. For the next two weeks, I propose we make it your spirit creature.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Sagittarian novelist Gustave Flaubert declared that it's "our duty is to feel what is sublime and cherish what is beautiful." But that's a demanding task to pull off on an ongoing basis. Maybe the best we can hope for is to feel what's sublime and cherish what's beautiful for 30-35 days every year. Having said that, though, I'm happy to tell you that in 2019 you could get all the way up to 95-100 days of feeling what's sublime and cherishing what's beautiful. And as many as 15 to 17 of those days could come during the next 21.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Sommeliers are people trained to perceive the nuances of wine. By sampling a few sips, the best sommeliers can discern facts about the type of grapes that were used to make the wine and where on earth they were grown. I think that in the coming weeks you Capricorns should launch an effort to reach a comparable level of sensitivity and perceptivity about any subject you care about. It's a favorable time to become even more masterful about your specialties; to dive deeper into the areas of knowledge that captivate your imagination.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Every language is a work-in-progress. New words constantly insinuate themselves into common usage, while others fade away. If you traveled back in time to 1719 while remaining in your current location, you'd have trouble communicating with people of that era. And today linguistic evolution is even more rapid than in previous ages. The Oxford English Dictionary adds more than a thousand new words annually, in recognition of the extra verbal skill and inventiveness you now possess. Aquarius, I invite you to coin a slew of your own fresh terms. To get you warmed up, try this utterance I coined: vorizzimol! It's an exclamation that means "thrillingly beautiful and true."

♊ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): One of history's most audacious con men was George C. Parker, a Pisces. He made his living selling property that did not legally belong to him, like the Brooklyn Bridge, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Statue of Liberty. I suspect you could summon his level of salesmanship and persuasive skills in the coming weeks. But I hope you will use your nearly magical powers to make deals and perform feats that have maximum integrity. It's OK to be a teensy bit greedy, though.

freewillastrology@freewillastrology.com
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Trans Attraction

Getting educated in a conservative state

I'm an adult man, and I have developed a trans attraction after following a particular Tumblr blog. That blog is now gone, sadly, since all adult content has been purged from Tumblr.

It wasn't just porn. It consisted of all the things I really enjoy—images of oil paintings and antique furniture, scenic landscapes, wild animals, and then pictures/gifs of trans women. Some women appeared to have had top surgery while others didn't. But all of the women featured on this blog had penises. I had never considered a relationship with a trans woman before, but after browsing the blog for a year, I can honestly say I'd do it in a heartbeat.

I would actually like to date a non-op trans woman. I know that many trans women don't like having their male parts touched or acknowledged, but I didn't know that a trans woman can only have a functioning penis if she isn't taking female hormones, and I hadn't considered the effect that might have on somebody's gender dysphoria.

How can I meet a trans woman who is hopefully comfortable with her male parts and seeking a relationship? I live in a conservative Bible Belt state—Utah—and I am woefully uneducated on this subject.

GIRL'S HEART, MAN'S PARTS

"My penis and balls aren't 'man's parts,'" said Bailey Jay, the three-time AVN Award-winning transsexual porn star. "They're mine. I own them. Not some random man."

In fairness, GHMP, you acknowledge being woefully uneducated on trans issues, something your letter demonstrated again and again. But let's start here: A trans woman doesn't have boy parts. She has girl parts—unique girl parts, as girl parts go, but girl parts just the same.

"I'm on hormones and my cock works great," said Jay. "Every trans woman is going to be different and have different experiences, and that's the best, first bit of advice I can give GHMP. We can smell it a mile away when we are all being lumped in together as a concept. Treat any trans

woman you're romantically interested in as an individual."

As for places to find trans individuals who might be up for dating cis men, well, you might want to sit down, GHMP, as this is pretty shocking.

"I've heard OkCupid is inclusive, and I have friends on there whose profiles even help people navigate discussing their bodies in a respectful way," said Jay. "And finding a trans woman to date who hasn't undergone bottom surgery is pretty easy. The surgery is expensive and even scary to some. It's not

terribly common that a trans woman has had that particular surgery."

But just because a trans woman hasn't had bottom surgery doesn't mean she doesn't want bottom surgery, so you shouldn't assume a trans woman with a penis plans to always keep her penis.

"The real question is what her relationship is with her current genitals," said

"Every trans woman is going to be different and have different experiences."

Jay. "Maybe she's very dysphoric about them. Maybe she doesn't even want you to see them or touch them. Even if her body is your preference, there's a chance it isn't hers. I personally love my penis and even like talking about it. But bringing up genitals right away can make you seem insensitive or like you're dehumanizing your date."

Jay recommends looking for trans women on mainstream dating apps and then following their lead. Look to the profiles of trans women you're interested in for cues about their approach.

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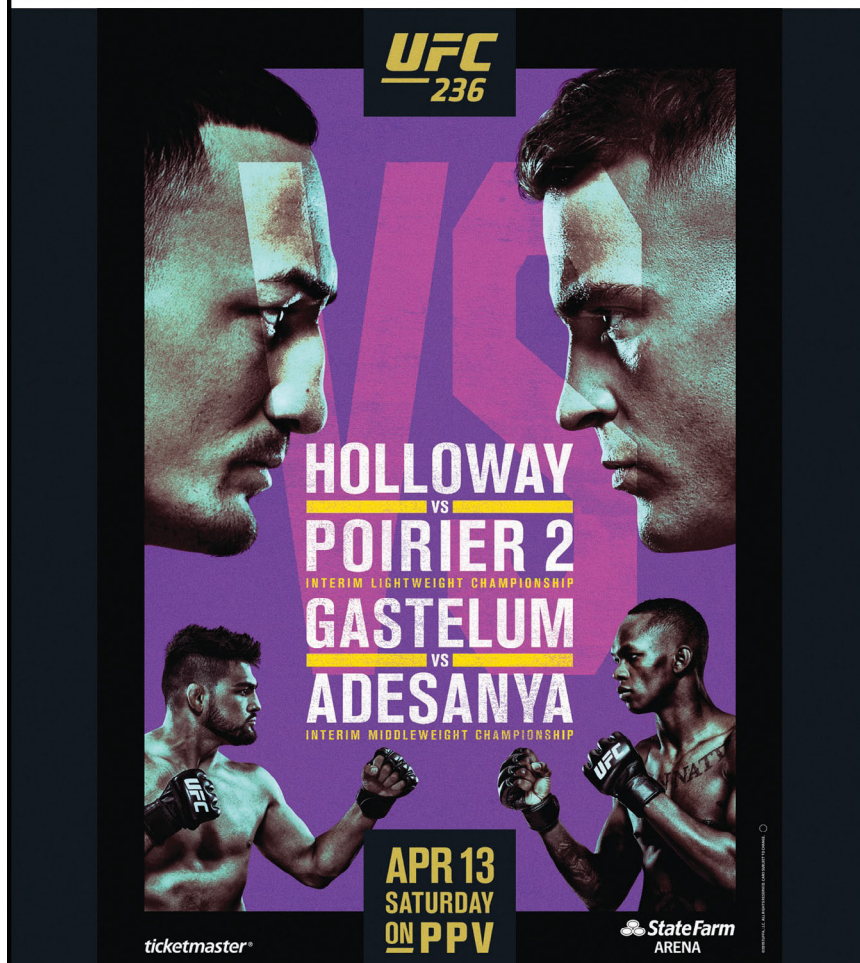
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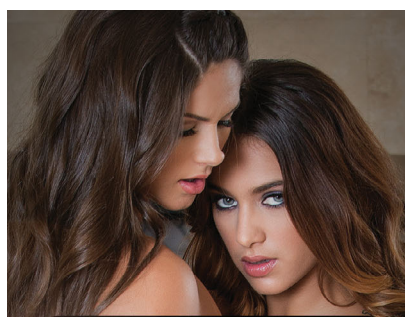
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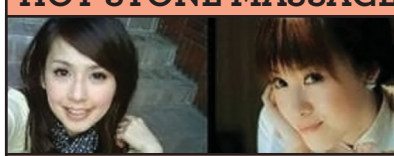
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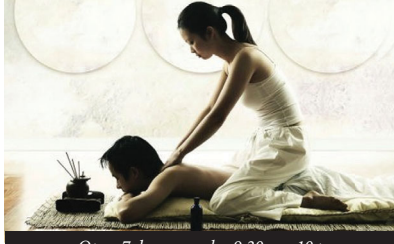


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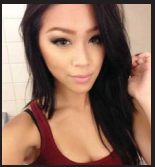
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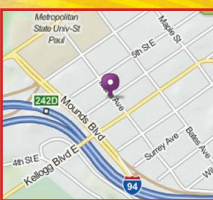
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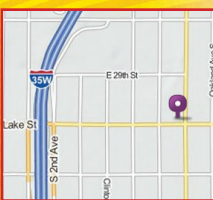
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